

Islam on the Web

By Bruce Campbell Moyer

While Islam, in one form or another, is on the front pages of the newspapers and frequently dominates the six o'clock news daily, the faith based on the revelations to Mohammad in the seventh century is a major area of popular discussion and national concern. At the same time, it is amazingly absent in the language departments of our colleges and universities and most religion and mission departments. All of this can add up to a great deal of misinformation or disinformation. The Web comes to our rescue.

Perhaps one of the more difficult tasks is determining sites that are genuinely Islamic from those that are essentially Christian sites about Islam. While the later are useful, they are secondary resources and may be colored by attitude, theology, perspective, and ideology.

An excellent place to begin is with the news from an Islamic perspective. The most popular of these are Al Jazeera (<http://english.aljazeera.net>) and Al Arabiya (www.alarabiya.net/english.aspx). Both of these sites originate in a moderately western-friendly locale and bring the Arab perspective to the Western mind.

Academic institutions are often good resources and two of the better and more reliable are Georgetown University (<http://georgetown.edu/research/arabtech>), and the University of Georgia (www.arches.uga.edu/~godlas/).

The National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education offers a very interesting site at (<http://arabworld.nitl.org>). The Middle East Research Institute offers (www.memri.org).

Keep up on the internal discussions between the two major branches of Islam, the Sunni and Shia, at (www.ansar.org).

The subject of integration (not assimilation) is hot among Muslims living in the West. How does one live, as a consistent and faithful Muslim in non-(or anti-) Muslim surroundings? One excellent resource and well worth visiting periodically is (<http://theamericanmuslim.com>). Are you interested in knowing what Muslims are reading, or picking up on some Islamic material for yourself? Point to the Islamic Bookstore at (<http://islamic-bookstore.com>).

Finally, renew your faith in God's ability to communicate to and through a wonderful diversity of people; treat yourself to one of the really great websites operated by a group of faithful Muslims in Turkey (www.jesuswillreturn.com).